

**Senate Redistricting Subcommittee Public Hearing
Summary of Testimony**

Room 105 of the Gressette Building, Columbia, S.C.
June 7, 2011 5:00 p.m. scheduled

Senator McConnell called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. The Redistricting Subcommittee members present were: Senator McConnell, Senator Ford, Senator Larry Martin, Senator Hutto, Senator Malloy, and Senator Shoopman. The Senate Redistricting staff persons present were: Charles Terreni, Debbie Hammond, Katherine Wells, Bonnie Anzelmo, Dwight Jones, Laurie Traywick, and Paula Benson. Senator Elliott also was in attendance.

Senator McConnell thanked the subcommittee members for attending the public hearing. He presented a short recap of previous meetings and announced the future schedule of subcommittee and full committee meetings. He recognized Charlie Terreni to present the staff plan and asked subcommittee members to keep questions to a minimum to allow for public comment.

Mr. Terreni explained the process of receiving information which led to developing a plan that was available on June 2 on the Senate Redistricting website. He said the public hearing had been advertised extensively to allow the members and staff to hear comments.

1. Mr. Talbert Black, a resident of Lexington, was recognized to speak. Under the proposed staff plan, he would be represented by a Senator who lives in Edgefield. He believed District 25 did not follow the announced Senate criteria for constituent consistency and communities of interest, particularly in that the district stretched across 5 counties. Due to travel and lack of common media outlets, he did not think a Senator from Edgefield could adequately represent residents of Lexington. He felt the ACLU plan better represents the citizens of Lexington and asked that the subcommittee consider that plan.

2. Ms. Neets Snellings, a concerned citizen, was recognized. She thanked the subcommittee for the opportunity to participate. She felt as if Lexington should be represented by a person from Lexington.

3. Mr. Ben Kinlaw was recognized. He thanked the subcommittee and said this was the third meeting he had attended. He hoped Barnwell could be linked with a more progressive county and asked for consideration of the ACLU plan.

4. Ms. Katie O'Connor, a staff attorney for ACLU, was recognized to speak. She explained that the ACLU was a nonpartisan group with redistricting expertise. She thanked the subcommittee for the opportunity to speak and for having such a transparent process. She explained the ACLU plan maintained core districts, left incumbents in place, and maintained the criteria's deviations. She summarized federal case law, concerning Section 2 and Section 5. She said the ACLU plan would add District 29 as a majority-minority district while the staff plan lost District 17 as a majority-minority district, which might be retrogressive. She said the ACLU plan met the *Gingles* factors, complied with *Shaw*, and was a "least change" plan.

5. Mr. Matt Moore, representing the South Carolina Republican Party, was recognized and appeared with Kevin Hall. They had consulted the party and presented a plan of proposed Senate Districts that met the criteria and federal law and provided for ten majority-minority districts.

Senator Ford asked for racial percentages. Mr. Moore said he would provide those.

Having no other speakers, Senator McConnell declared the subcommittee public hearing adjourned at 5:34 p.m.